NOTE XXXVIII.

NOTES ON THE RAILS OF THE LEYDEN MUSEUM,

BY

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During my visit to Leyden in April of the present year, I had the pleasure of examining carefully the collection of *Rallidae* as it had been arranged by the late Professor Schlegel in the year 1865 (cf. Cat. Mus. Pays-Bas, Vol. V, pp. 1—79). The following notes, which form a small commentary on Schlegel's Catalogue, may be of some use to future workers on the *Rallidae*.

Rallus longirostris.

Rallus longirostris Bodd.: Sharpe, Cat. B. Brit. Mus. XXIII, p. 10.

On p. 12 of Schlegel's 'Catalogue' four specimens are enumerated under the above name. The true *R. longirostris* is from Guiana, and the only specimen is n⁰. 3, an adult bird from Cayenne. N⁰. 1 from New Jersey is *Rallus crepitans*, Gm. N⁰. 4 from »Brazil" is *Rallus elegans*, Aud. and the locality is certainly erroneous.

N⁰. 2 an adult female bird from Surinam is a very curious and interesting specimen, and appears to be *Rallus caribseus* of Ridgway (Cf. Cat. B. XXIII, p. 13). It differs from true *Rallus longirostris* in being nearly uniform above, in having very light ashy flanks with narrow white bars, and in being ashy on the breast and neck instead of light tawny-colour. From true *R. crepitans* it does not differ so much, but is more uniform above and has lighter flanks, but the colour of the breast is about the same. The lateral under tail-coverts are almost entirely white, with very large terminal spots of brown, the median under tail-coverts being barred with white and brown.

These are the notes which I made without having a series of specimens for comparison, but whichever the race here described may turn out to be, it is certainly an extension of range to the southward of one of the West Indian forms.

Limnopardalus sanguinolentus.

Limnopardalus sanguinolentus (Swains.): Sharpe, Cat. B. Brit. Mus. XXIII, p. 30.

A young bird from Santiago differs from the adult in being browner, with a shorter bill, and having whitish cheeks and throat. The under surface is ashy grey, overshaded with brown; under tail-coverts isabelline brown with black centres.

Limnopardalus nigricans.

Limnopardalus nigricans (V.); Sharpe, t. c. p. 31.

The range of this species extends from Southern Brazil to Peru and north to Colombia. I find a specimen in the Museum from Surinam.

Hypotaenidia striata.

Hypotaenidia striata (L.): Sharpe, t. c. p. 33.

In my remarks upon *Rallus jouaji*, Stejneger, I have endeavoured to show that the characters put forward by Dr. Stejneger were not sufficiently born out by our series in the British Museum. I have, therefore, carefully examined the series in the Leyden Museum, and find my conclusions confirmed.

Specimens »with white bars and white spots on the primary-coverts well developed" are in the collection from Java, Sumatra, Cochin China and China and specimens with few spots »are from Java, Sumatra, and Luçon."

A specimen »with no spot" is in this collection from Java.

Hypotaenidia celebensis.

Hypotaenidia celebensis (Q. et G.): Sharpe, t. c. p. 45.

The Leyden Museum contains a large series of this species, almost exclusively from Northern Celebes, viz. from Minahassa, Gorontalo and Pagoeat. Several of these are young birds and they invariably show a great deal of white on the throat, but some of the old individuals have the throat almost entirely black. In nearly every specimen the wing-coverts bare a faint indication of reddish bars, and in the young birds the wing-coverts are plentifully, though obscurely, barred with black and rufous, and the quills and tail-feathers are very distinctly banded with rufous. Young birds are all much more plentifully, though obscurely, barred with black and rufous, and the quills and tail-feathers are very distinctly banded with rufous. Young birds are all much more plentifully barred underneath than the old ones, and the flanks and under tail-coverts are also banded with rusty.

Hypotaenidia Jentinki, sp. n.

This is an interesting form of Rail of the group of *H. celebensis* and *H. saturata.* Like the latter bird it has an intensely black throat, but it is easily distinguished by its rufous, instead of olive, brown colour on the back and wings. This rufous colour also separates the species from *H. celebensis* and in addition it has the centre of the head blackish brown, and the lores, ear-coverts and sides of crown, jet black. Total length 11.0 inches, culmen 1.7, wing 6.1, tail 2.3, tarsus 2.15, middle toe and claw 2.15.

Hab. Island of Sula Mangola.

Ocydromus australis.

N° 1 is of the *O. Earli* group — marked by Finsch '*Ocydromus* nova sp.,' much lighter grey than *O. Earli*, and much paler above, but it has none of the colour of *O. australis.*

Rallina fasciata, Schl. Mus. Pays-Bas, Ralli, p. 19.

Spec. 5. »dans la livrée de passage, variété à remiges sans bandes blanches" is really *Limnobaenus Paykulli.*

Crex dimidiata, Schl. Cat. Ralli, p. 27.

N° 6 is the female of *Corethrura elegans.*

Porzana intermedia.

Porzana intermedia (Herm.): Sharpe, t. c. p. 103.

Further examination and a larger series of specimens will be necessary before the exact eastern range of Baillon's crake can be determined. In the Leyden Museum there is an undoubted specimen of the true *P. intermedia* from Lake Baikal, where *P. pusilla* might have been expected.

Porzana tabuensis.

Porzana tabuensis (Gm.): Sharpe, Cat. B. XXIII, p. 111.

This species varies greatly in dimensions, but I cannot see any constant characters by which any races could be distinguished. N°s. 1 and 2 of Schlegel's Catalogue (p. 36) have the wing 3.4 inches, and the tarsus 1.0—1.15. N° 3 from West Australia has the wing 3.5 and the tarsus 1.2, while specimens from Viti Levu and the Philippines (N° 4) have the wing 3.0 and the tarsus 0.95—1.0.

Pennula sandwichensis.

The typical specimen of this bird in the Leyden Museum has shown me, that I was in error, in uniting it to *P. ecaudata.* It has a streaked upper surface, very different from the uniform back of *P. ecaudata.*

Corethrura pulchra.

Corethrura pulchra (J. E. Gray); Sharpe, t. c. p. 116.

A young bird in changing plumage is very interesting. It has the rufous head and chest of the adult, but the centre of the fore-neck and the rest of the under surface are light brown, with a few freshly moulted white-spotted feathers interspersed.

Creciscus jamaicensis.

Creciscus jamaicensis (Gm.); Sharpe, t. c. p. 135.

A specimen is in the collection from Bogotà.

Limnobaenus marginalis.

Porzana marginalis, Hartl. Orn. W. Afr. p. 241.

Crex suahalensis, Tristr. P. Z. S. 1882, p. 93.

The type of Canon Tristrams bird would appear to be a young one, as the adult female in the Leyden Museum has a grey head and neck, and the lower throat, fore neck and sides of body are also ashy grey slightly mottled with whitish edgings to the feathers; throat and centre of breast pure white; lower flanks, vent, and under tail coverts cinnamon coloured. Wing 4.05: tarsus 1.3.

The young bird in the Leyden Museum is browner above, and brown on the head, the sides of the face light rufous, throat and abdomen whitish, the lower throat, chest, and sides of body very pale rufous with a few white streaks on the flanks, the under tail-coverts and lower flanks very pale tawny.

Porzana Schomburgki, Schl. Cat. Ralli, p. 37.

The specimens attributed to this species by Schlegel are really *Neocrex erythrops* (Scl.), as surmised by Sclater and Salvin (P. Z. S. 1868, p. 457).

Gallinula Franki, Schl. Notes Leyden Mus. I, p. 163 (1879).

I have examined the type of this species in the Museum, and I am not quite convinced that Count Salvadori is right in uniting it to *Amaurornis moluccana.* Its colour is chocolate brown above and below, with the breast and abdomen dark ashy, and the throat dark ashy grey.